

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-12 have been amended and claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter found therein. The amendments to claims 2, 6, 7, and 10-12 are to correct minor informalities therein, such as changing the word "Claim" to "claim", and to correct the punctuation found therein. The amendments have no bearing on the patentable subject matter of, at least, claims 2, 7, 8, and 10-12, as the amendments have no effect on how these claims are interpreted. The amendment to claim 1 changes the term "opposite" to "facing" and corrects an error in lines 7 and 8 where the terms "spaced portion" and "passage portion" are replaced with the terms "passage portion" and "spaced portion". As shown in Fig. 2A, the driving portion is bonded to the surface of the passage portion facing the spaced portion. Thus, the amendment to claim 1 is to correct the above-identified error and to clarify the features therein. Similarly, the amendments to claims 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9 are to clarify the features therein. The amendments to claims 1-12 are non-narrowing. Also, the specification at page 13, line 20, has been amended to change the reference number 10 to reference number 19 to agree with the drawings. Similarly, the specification at page 14, line 15, has been amended to change the reference number 19 to reference number 40 to agree with the drawings. Further, formal replacement sheets are provided for Figs. 1-9. No new matter has been added.

Applicant appreciates the courtesy shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Mruk and Supervisory Examiner Shah in the September 12 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Higuchi et al. (Higuchi), U.S. Patent No. 6,802,596. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention of claim 1 calls for an ink-jet head, comprising a passage portion in which a plurality of ink ejecting nozzles are formed, the passage portion including a plurality of individual ink passages running to the nozzles through pressure chambers; a spaced portion spaced apart from and facing the passage portion; a driving portion bonded to a surface of the passage portion facing the spaced portion for imparting squirting energy to ink in the pressure chambers; a power supply member electrically connected with the driving portion for supplying driving signals to the driving portion; a protrusion provided in at least either of the surface of the spaced portion facing the passage portion and the surface of the passage portion facing the spaced portion; and a sealing member disposed adjacent to the protrusion for sealing a space between the passage portion and the spaced portion. As agreed at the interview, Higuchi fails to disclose this combination of features.

Applicant's invention of claim 11 calls for an ink-jet head, comprising a passage unit in which a plurality of ink ejecting nozzles are formed, the passage unit including a plurality of individual ink passages running to the nozzles through pressure chambers; a reservoir unit including an ink reservoir in which ink is stored and from which the stored ink is fed to the passage unit; an actuator unit bonded to the passage unit for imparting squirting energy to the ink in the pressure chambers; and a power supply member electrically connected with the actuator unit for supplying driving signals to the actuator unit; wherein the reservoir unit has a bonded surface bonded to the passage unit and a spaced surface extended across and spaced apart from the actuator unit, a protrusion is provided in an area of the spaced surface of the reservoir unit, the area is opposite to the bonded surface with respect to an area facing the actuator unit, and the power supply member is in abutment with both of the protrusion and the passage unit, and a sealing member for sealing a space between the passage unit and the reservoir unit is disposed at the abutment portion. As agreed at the interview, Higuchi fails to disclose this combination of features.

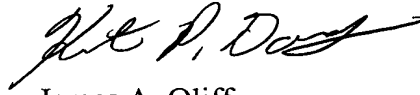
At the interview, Applicant's representative discussed the difference between claims 1 and 11 and the disclosure of Higuchi. In particular, Higuchi fails to disclose the feature of a driving portion bonded to a surface of the passage portion facing the spaced portion for imparting squirting energy to ink in the pressure chambers, as recited in claim 1. With respect to claim 11, Higuchi fails to disclose an ink-jet head wherein the reservoir unit has a bonded surface bonded to the passage unit and a spaced surface extended across and spaced apart from the actuator unit, and the power supply member is in abutment with both of the protrusion and the passage unit, and a sealing member for sealing a space between the passage unit and the reservoir unit is disposed at the abutment portion, as recited in claim 11. The Examiners agreed that claims 1 and 11 patentably distinguish over the applied reference (see page 3 of the Interview Summary).

Because Higuchi does not anticipate or suggest the features as recited in claims 1 and 11, Higuchi cannot possibly anticipate or suggest the subject matter of claims 2-10, which depend from claim 1, and the subject matter of claim 12, which depends from claim 11, for the reasons discussed with respect to claims 1 and 11 and for the additional features recited therein. Thus, as agreed at the interview, the dependent claims are distinguished over Higuchi.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Kurt P. Goudy
Registration No. 52,954

JAO:KPG/axl

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Replacement Sheets (8)

Date: September 16, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 1-9 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 1-9.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets (8)